

**REMARKS**

This Amendment and Request for Reconsideration is submitted in response to an outstanding Office Action dated March 24, 2004, the shortened statutory period for response set to expire on June 24, 2004. This response is submitted before that due date and accordingly, no Petition or Fee for Extension of time are believed necessary. However, in the event that the Commissioner determines that an extension of time is necessary, the undersigned hereby petitions for the required extension of time, and authorizes the Commissioner to charge any require fee to the Milbank Deposit account 13-3250.

**I.     Status of the Claims**

Please cancel claims 1-2, 11-12, 24, 26 and 29-34 without prejudice. Please amend claims 3-7, 13-17, 21-23, and 25 as indicated above. Please add new claims 35 and 36. Claims 3-10, 13-23, 25, 27-28 and 35-36 are now pending in the application. Claims 21, 22, 23, 25, 27, 28, 35 and 36 are independent claims.

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's citation of statutory authority as a basis for claim rejections.

**II.    Objections, Allowable Claims, and Rejections**

Claims 23, 25, 27 and 28 are allowed, and claims 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 20 are objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 6-9, 11, 16-19, 21, 22, 24, 26, 30, 31, 33 and 34 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kamai (U.S. Patent No. 5,864,812).


Applicants have cancelled claims 1-2, 11-12, 24, 26 and 29-34 without prejudice, and have written objected claims in allowable form. Allowed claim 25 is amended only to

correct a matter of form. New claims 35 and 36 are program and medium claims that correspond generally to allowed claim 27. Accordingly, applicants submit that the bases for rejection and objection are overcome and ask that they be withdrawn.

III. Request for Reconsideration

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims of this application are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration of the rejection and allowance is requested. If a conference would assist in placing this application in better condition for allowance, the undersigned would appreciate a telephone call at the number indicated.

Respectfully submitted,  
Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy LLP



Chris L. Holm  
Reg. No.: 39,227

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Milbank Tweed Hadley & McCloy LLP  
1 Chase Manhattan Plaza  
New York, NY 10005  
(212) 530-5000 / (212) 530-5219 (facsimile)